

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 09266 211612Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 INT-05 GSA-01
AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01
OMB-01 PRS-01 IGA-02 /085 W
----- 082074 /42

R 211207Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5796
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY SANTODOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 9266

NOFORN

EO 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS: ECIN EMIN
SUB: FREETOWN MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL BAUXITE ASSOCIATION (IBA)

REF: A) FREETOWN 3942 ,(NOTAL), B) FREETOWN 3954,

1. AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER EVANS, HEAD OF DEL TO SUBJECT
MEETING, SHARED HIS VIEWS WITH US. SINCE AUSTRALIA "A MEMBER OF
THE CLUB" HE ASKED THAT FACT HE SPOKE TO US AS HE DID BE CLOSELY
HELD.

2. EVANS APPARENTLY BELIEVES NOTHING SPECIFIC WAS ACCOMPLISHED,
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PAGE 02 ACCRA 09266 211612Z

BUT MEETING ITSELF USEFUL AS PLACE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND TO HAVE
AUSTRALIA IN FORUM WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE SAID FREETOWN
MEETINGS LESS CONFRONTATIONAL AND MORE CONSTRUCTIVE THAN ITS
PREDECESSOR.

3. AT LEAST HALF OF SESSION TAKEN UP BY BUDGET AND OTHER ADMIN-

ISTRATIVE MATTERS.

4. AS REPORTED, THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT ON PRICING. TWO-TIER SYSTEM (REFTEL B, PARA 2) DID COME UP BUT DID NOT GET VERY FAR. AUSTRALIA MADE CLEAR IT COULD NOT ACCEPT PRICING DECISION WHICH WOULD MAKE IT VIOLATE CONTRACTS (SOME OF WHICH VERY LONG-TERM) OR "UNREASONABLY REQUEST RENEGOTIATION" OF CONTRACTS. SEVERAL IBA MEMBERS TOOK ATTITUDE THAT SINCE AUSTRALIA IS WELL-OFF AND HAS LOW BAUXITE PRODUCTION COSTS AND HIGH PRODUCTION IT HAS OBLIGATION TO OTHER IBA MEMBERS TO SET HIGH PRICES. EVANS APPARENTLY MADE CLEAR TO COLLEAGUES THAT NEITHER AUSTRALIAN PRODUCERS NOR GOA IS A CHARITABLE INSTITUTION.

5. INTERESTING SIDELIGHT CAME FROM FACT THAT AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR DEVALUED DURING MEETING. NO ONE COMMENTED ADVERSELY; DELEGATE OF GUINEA ACTUALLY CONGRATULATED EVANS. HE POINTED OUT TO US THAT GUINEAN OBVIOUSLY DID NOT REALIZE THAT DEVALUATION WOULD MAKE INVESTMENT IN AUSTRALIA MORE ATTRACTIVE AND THAT BAUXITE PRODUCTION WOULD THEREBY BECOME EVEN GREATER AND THE AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY YET MORE COMPETITIVE.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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